



CITY COUNCIL

Standards of Living Committee

Meeting Report September 3, 2013

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (Co-Chair), R. Corocoran (Co-Chair)

Others Attending: J. Waltman, D. Sterner, D. Reed, S. Marmarou, C. Younger, C. Snyder, L. Kelleher, L. Murin, E. Lloyd, V. Spencer, T. Coleman, M. Katzenmoyer, F. Denbowski, K. Schorn, C. Jones, J. Seidel, B. Hospidor, Dr. J. Dethoff, B. Rivera.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the administrative reports were disseminated prior to the meeting and that if there were any questions to address Ms. Kelleher so that she can obtain answers from the department heads.

I. REVIEW OF TATOO REGULATIONS (BOARD OF HEALTH)

Ms. Katzenmoyer took time to introduce members of the Board of Health and stated that a brief was distributed prior to the meeting with the board's recommendations regarding the Tattoo Parlor regulations.

Dr. Dethoff thanked council for the opportunity to meet with them and discuss their findings. He stated that this has been a lengthy process but believes that the information in the brief is fair and will be beneficial moving forward. He stated that the board met with several tattoo parlor owners in the city to find out what their thoughts, concerns and recommendations would be in keeping tattoo shops safe. He stated that all tattoo shops are required to carry insurance. The Board of Health put together a draft ordinance and believes, with the help of the local tattoo shop owners, this is a fair and suitable ordinance.

Ms. Snyder asked if there were certain more problematic areas in doing this research. Dr. Dethoff responded that the face tattooing was the most thought-provoking as certain cities

have specific restrictions on that area; however, most of the issue had to do with a ban against incisions and general anesthesia being utilized and since that is seldom the case, it wasn't of much concern. Most surrounding cities have restrictions on tattooing faces as they classify this to be a permanent cosmetic tattooing issue which is a completely different form of tattooing. Dr. Dethoff stated that surprisingly, the state was not very helpful in their quest of laws regulating tattoo parlors.

Mr. Waltman asked if there were any penalties that would be imposed should a tattoo shop not have a permit and Dr. Dethoff responded affirmatively stating that that is addressed toward the end of the draft ordinance; however, exact fee amounts have not been established.

Mr. Coleman stated that in working with the owners of several city tattoo shops, no owners brought forward situations involving permits that required the board's attention.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz asked about piercings.

Dr. Dethoff stated that piercings are not regulated as long as they are done without the use of surgery or anesthesia. The draft ordinance forbids the use of those items for both tattooing and piercing.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that an inspection fee of \$100 per year will be imposed to tattoo shops.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz asked how many tattoo shops were in our city and Ms. Katzenmoyer responded that she was aware of six to date.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz asked what other issues would be looked at next by the board and Dr. Dethoff responded that the board would like to address the number of pets in a household.

Mr. Corcoran stated that though the Animal Control Board was not actively operating due to lack of participation, that board should be more active in the weeks to come as more have stepped up in becoming members and they will begin meeting.

II. PRESENTATION FROM FRANK DENBOWSKI REGARDING RECYCLING

Mr. Denbowski stated that his presentation is focused on the "recycling scavengers" and how they affect us as a city. He divided the presentation into four parts:

1. Preventing Scavengers
2. Reporting Scavengers
3. The Economic Impact to the city
4. Possible solutions to this problem

Mr. Denbowski also stated that there are two types of scavenging:

- Recycling
- Trash

1. Prevention

Mr. Denbowski stated that in preventing this activity we can do our part by putting our trash and recycling out in the early morning of pick up days versus the night before. Most scavenging occurs in the very early morning hours while it is still dark. He also stated that scavengers should not be approached for safety reasons.

2. Reporting Scavengers

Mr. Denbowski stated that it is imperative that when reporting scavenging activities, as much information as possible is needed. Some of the information that will be required is the date, time and location of the incident along with descriptions of scavengers and their vehicles and license number as well as what they were scavenging.

3. Economic Impact

Mr. Denmbowski stated that approximately \$100,000.00 is the amount we are losing to scavengers annually. He knows of two locations where scavengers are cashing in their items (aluminum cans) and those places are paying .42 to .45 per pound.

Mr. Denbowski stated that scavenging also becomes a QoL issue as it creates noise in our neighborhoods at inappropriate times but also adds to unsightly messes as scavengers rummage through trash and leave messes behind.

Mr. Denbowski stated that many of these scavengers are not only the homeless in our community as they have been seen driving newer model cars.

4. Possible Solutions

Mr. Denbowski stated that there may be three solutions to this problem:

- More enforcement from the City which also means that we will also educate the offenders and impose fines as needed.
- Make additional amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance as currently there is no language about the taking of trash; just recycling.
- Consider a City-sponsored trash scavenging program (franchise) that would give a person a license to be able to scavenge in the City. This solution is just in the beginning stages and more details will follow on how it may work.

Mr. Marmarou commented that if we do not enforce laws, why should they be created in the first place.

Ms. Reed asked if Mr. Denbowski knows how many residents keep their own aluminum cans

and recycle them for their own benefit. She also asked if surrounding suburbs and municipalities are experiencing these problems and what are they doing about it.

Dr. Dethoff commented that he believes many people in general are not educated in how this problem affects our city, especially the fact that it is illegal to scavenge. The public needs to understand completely the impact for a solution to function.

Mr. Waltman stated that this has long been an issue that he feels strongly about. His concern is how the trash and recycling is put out by residents. He went on to give examples of areas where residents haphazardly put out their trash and create unsightly messes without regard to what it looks like.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed stating that at times mattresses are left out much longer than they should be and that is a completely unsanitary situation.

Mr. Corcoran also agreed stating that in some areas of the city, the problem of scavenging is an animal issue and that if containers are not properly closed, the animals will create even bigger messes creating QoL matters.

Mr. Spencer noted that in some neighborhoods the residents keep watch to see who these scavengers are and they were surprised to see that most of the scavengers were in vehicles not on foot. He asked how serious we as a city want to be regarding this issue because with strict enforcement, there will undoubtedly be a higher cost.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the implementation of fines and license fees (for a scavenging program), should offset most of the costs.

III. UGI METERS INSTALLED - CONCERNS

Ms. Snyder stated that unfortunately the city is hitting a wall regarding our ability to stop UGI from cutting into our streets and leaving a mess behind. She stated that Lancaster is working on a new street cut ordinance that makes it more difficult for companies to cut into streets without fixing them appropriately when projects are completed. We are receiving Lancaster's draft ordinance. She asked Mr. Younger if there would be any way to put an emergency stop to all work moving forward.

Mr. Younger responded that in doing so, we may end up larger issues than anticipated but he does believe we can put a stop.

Mr. Waltman suggested that local legislators be contacted so they can actually see what is happening to the areas they service and then, perhaps, they will be more willing to assist in this problem. He stated that an ordinance needs to be put in place and passed and then

amendments can be made as needed but time is definitely of the essence in doing this.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz asked Ms. Snyder to see if we can fast forward this and keep council apprised of this critical issue and Ms. Snyder agreed to do what she can in a most timely manner.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bea Rivera, Legislative Aide